



AFAR FORUM

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Press Release

The volcanic eruption of the mountains of Nabro in Biru district of Eritrea on June 12, 2011 has been so far described from the perspectives of volcanologists and its disruption on the international air traffic. The area has been hit by series of earthquake and it continued until today.

The area of Nabro and the surrounding is inhabited by Afar pastoralists who depend on their livestock for their subsistence. According to our local sources, an estimated area of 45 km radius has been covered by the volcano and the volcano continues to release a heavy smoke. Therefore a severe human tragedy expected to have taken place in vicinity of the volcano. There is a little information coming out from Eritrean Government about the extent of the damage to the people who live close by.

The Afar Forum is gravely concern about the humanitarian situation in Ethio-Eritrean boarded close to Nabro and believes that there is untold humanitarian crisis.

Therefore, we call upon Ethiopian government, UN and humanitarian organizations to assess the adverse impact of the volcanic eruption and the earthquake on the Afar communities living in the area and provide urgent assistance.

We call upon Eritrean Government in particularly to assists the victim of this natural disaster and facilitate access to the area for all the international humanitarian organizations.

Stuttgart. Germany, June 20, 2011